

REMARKS

Claims 2-6, 12-16, 20, 23-26, and 31-47 were pending in this application when the present Final Office Action was mailed. Claims 14, 35 and 44 have been cancelled, claims 13, 31, 39, 40, 45 and 46 have been amended, and claims 48-67 have been added in the present paper.

The status of the application in light of this Final Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 13 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,044,047 to Akimoto et al. ("Akimoto");

(B) Claims 31, 33-34, 37-40, 42-43 and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,719,495 to Moslehi ("Moslehi");

(C) Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 12, 20, 23-26 and 47 were indicated to be allowable over the prior art of record; and

(D) Claims 14, 32, 35-36, 41 and 44-45 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

A. Response to the Section 102 Rejections on the Basis of Akimoto

Without commenting on or conceding the merits of the Examiner's claim rejections on the basis of Akimoto, claim 13 has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 14, which was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejection of claim 13 should be withdrawn. Claim 14 has been cancelled. Claims 15 and 16 now depend from allowable claim 13 and accordingly, the Section 102 rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for this reason and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

B. Response to the Section 102 Rejections on the Basis of Moslehi

Without commenting on or conceding the merits of the Examiner's claim rejections on the basis of Moslehi, claim 31 has been amended to include the features

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of claim 35, which was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejection of claim 31 should be withdrawn. Claim 35 has been cancelled. Claims 32-34, and 36-39 depend from claim 31 and are accordingly allowable for this reason and for the additional features of these dependent claims.

Claim 40 has been amended to include the features of claim 44, which was indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. Accordingly, the Section 102 rejection of claim 40 should be withdrawn. Claim 44 has been cancelled. Claims 41-43, 45 and 46 depend from claim 40 and are accordingly allowable for this reason and for the additional features of these claims. Claims 45 and 46 have been amended to clarify the antecedent basis for the term "processing unit."

C. Response to the Indication of Allowed Claims

Claims 2-3, 5-6, 12, 20, 23-26, and 47 were indicated to be allowable over the prior art of record and have not been amended in this paper.

D. Response to the Indication of Allowable Dependent Claims

Claims 14, 32, 35-36, 41 and 44-45 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the claims from which they depend. New claim 48 corresponds to claim 32 rewritten to be in independent form. New claims 49-55 correspond generally to claims 33-39, but depend from new claim 48. Accordingly, claims 48-55 are in condition for allowance.

New claim 56 corresponds to allowable claim 41, rewritten to be in independent form. New claims 57-61 correspond generally to claims 42-46, but depend from new claim 56. Accordingly, claims 56-61 are in condition for allowance.

New claim 62 corresponds to claim 45, rewritten to be in independent form. New claims 63-67 correspond generally to claims 41-44 and 46, but depend from claim 62. Accordingly, claims 62-67 are in condition for allowance.

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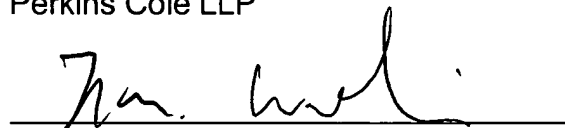
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E. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. A Notice of Allowance is, therefore, respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3257.

Respectfully submitted,

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